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'We place people first in all our programs'

By CCF LEADER R. M. STRACHAN

The policy of the CCF is to Put People First, and y point in the following program, which we will put into effect as a CCF Government, is based on the philosophy that the welfare of the individual is paramount.

UNEMPLOYMENT

This is the most urgent problem needing immediate attention.

Public Accounts for the last two fiscal years reveal that $24,879,396, allocated for employment-creating works under the heading, "Capital Expenditure Out of Income," was not spent.

In addition to this amount, approximately another $8 million could have been obtained from the Federal Government under the Trans-Canada Highway cost-sharing program.

In all, therefore, $30 million earmarked for capital construction work was not spent, thus creating more unemployment.

These are facts of Social Credit Government policy printed for all to see in Public Accounts tabled in the Legislature.

In the same two years the Accounts show that $30 million was funneled into Debt Reduction. This Social Credit policy of Politics Not People has caused massive unemployment and needless suffering to our able bodied workers.

The CCF would completely reverse such policy. Here is the action we would take.

I. THE ALLEVIATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) An imaginative program of public works (including schools, hospitals, diking and draining, highways, forestry access roads and other social capital projects) to provide employment and to stimulate the provincial economy.

(b) Initiation of a joint municipal-provincial program of municipal public works.

(c) The encouragement and control of new investment for the purpose of providing a steady rate of economic growth with special emphasis on the development of secondary industry.

(d) Companies located in B.C. will be encouraged to conduct trade with all countries where markets exist and steps will be taken to initiate a series of Provincial Trade Missions to potential market areas.

(e) The working hours per week will be reduced by legislation to 40.

(f) The Annual Holidays Act will be amended to provide three weeks' vacation with pay for every worker after five years of service.

(g) Adult education and retraining for the redundant unemployed.

(h) Immediate commencement of construction of the Columbia River hydro electric power project.

II. THE ALLEVIATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT DISTRESS

(a) Social Assistance rates will be increased.

(b) Immediate facilities will be made available to the unemployed for shelter, adult education and technical training.

(c) The Provincial Government will undertake to protect the homes of those who are unable to continue home mortgage payments because of unemployment.

AN IMMEDIATE SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE CONVENED TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM.

POWER

B.C. Electric

Within six months of taking office a CCF Government will, under the terms of the Power Act, place the B.C. Electric under public ownership. This action will be nothing new to British Columbia as the B.C. Power Commission has already taken over 28 private companies under the same Power Act. The B.C. Electric will be Number 29.

The B.C. Power Commission will then be responsible for the generation, transmission AND DISTRIBUTION of all electricity and gas in the province. This is where the CCF differs from all other parties. Only the CCF has the courage to stand up to this great monopoly that dominates the government and the people of this province.

The reason for this is obvious. The CCF is the only party that does NOT rely on these giant corporations for political campaign funds. All other parties do.

been in every other place where public power has taken over, a reduction in the light bills paid by the householder, the farmer and the businessman.

The B.C. Power Commission which, by government policy, is restricted to serving the uneconomic areas of the province, right now is selling electricity to its customers at an overall average rate per kwh of approximately 34 per cent less than the B.C. Electric.

Columbia River

A CCF Government will develop the Columbia River under public ownership in complete co-operation with the Federal Government and we will have no part of any scheme to build the High Arrow Lake Dam unless it is in the interests of Canada and British Columbia to do so and unless engineering and economic considerations offset the social considerations involved in the flooding of a whole series of communities and a large area of the limited agricultural resources of B.C.

Peace River

A CCF Government will develop the Peace River under the B.C. Power Commission whenever it is necessary and economically feasible to do so.

If that time is now, then we will develop it now.

Our overall aim is to develop the power resources of this province for the benefit of the people and not for the benefit of a few foreign promoters such as Wenner-Gren.

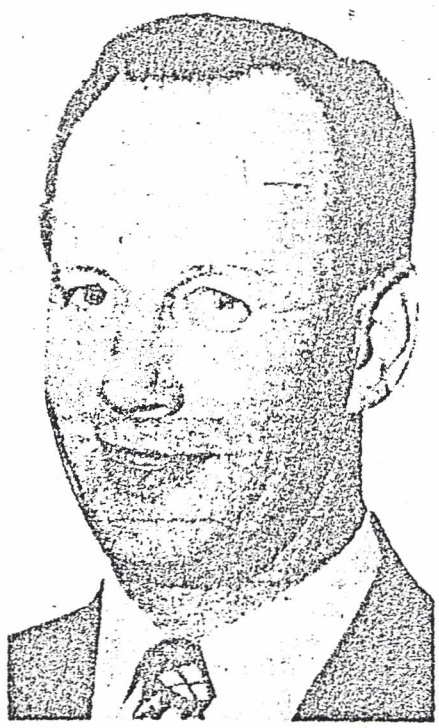
MEDICAL CARE PLAN

At least 40 per cent of our citizens have no prepaid health insurance, and the remainder pay high premiums for incomplete coverage to various private schemes.

The CCF differs again from all other parties in their approach to this problem. Only the CCF will bring prepaid health insurance to every citizen of the province NOW. We will do this in our first term of office and we will NOT, as the Social Credit party proposes, wait for the Federal Government to participate. The CCF will act NOW.

The CCF medical care plan will be based on the following principles.

It will cover every citizen in the province.



ROBERT STRACHAN

It will provide free choice of doctor.

It will improve the doctor-patient relationship.

It will treat the medical profession fairly.

It will be administered by a body responsible to the Legislature.

It will NOT allow any third party, such as a private insurance company, to profit from sickness.

Automobile insurance is yet another area where the public is paying exorbitant rates to private companies; but even more important is the fact that on many occasions innocent victims of automobile accidents are unable to obtain compensation.

A CCF Government would therefore introduce immediately Compulsory Automobile Insurance administered by the government to give complete protection to the people at a 20 per cent reduction from the present exorbitant rates.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

We regard the present municipal tax and finance structure as outmoded and inadequate. In meeting the problems that are facing the municipalities a CCF Government would:

(a) Agree with the municipalities to the re-allocation of the natural responsibilities, with the first step being the assuming by the provincial government of the full cost of social welfare and health measures.

(b) Remove from the local taxation burden, costs of new hospital construction.

(c) Pay to the municipalities a provincial grant in lieu of taxation on provincially-owned property within municipal boundaries.

(d) Encourage municipalities to participate in low-rental housing projects.

(e) Give leadership in the formation of metropolitan areas and the co-ordination of metropolitan services.

(f) Sponsor regular provincial-municipal conferences to discuss the general needs of the municipalities.

(g) Assist financially in the establishment of regional planning boards.

SOCIAL WELFARE

A completely new department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation will provide increased Social Assistance rates as recommended by the Community Chest and will assume responsibility for alcoholic and narcotic drug treatment and correctional services.

We will request the Federal Government to assume responsibility for certain classes of pensioners between the ages of 65 and 69, thus creating a saving for the province which could be devoted to the increase of supplementary assistance to those over 65 who are "in need."

The CCF will remove the present regulation which requires that 5 per cent of the value of a pensioner's property be treated as income under the means test, and we will set up a fund for large scale construction of homes for our senior citizens.

Space limitation prevents full discussion of the remainder of our policy, which includes:

TELEPHONES

Public ownership to provide lower costs and improved services.

EDUCATION

Reduction of university fees and improved university financing.

Progressive reduction of school taxes on land and improvements.

A vigorous program to improve and extend facilities and service to raise status and standards of the teaching profession and to rebuild autonomy and responsibility of local boards with the province paying a larger share of costs.

FORESTRY

A CCF Government would not enter directly into the operations of forest products industry, but would divide the province into forest management areas administered and controlled by the Government Forest Service.

AGRICULTURE

We will set up a $5 million farm stabilization fund to be used as required to create economic farm units and provide for a farm machinery pool to reduce the capital expenditure required by individual farmers.

We will remove school operating taxes from farm land immediately.

LABOR

We will repeal Bill 43 and pass a fair Trade Union Act, and legislate free collective bargaining for all government employees.

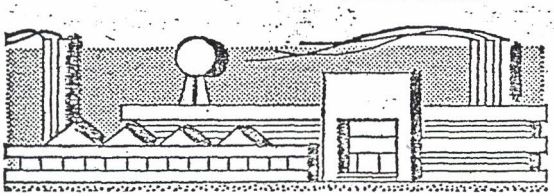
A mandate from the people would give the CCF a chance to carry out these policies which truly Put People First.

POWER

The problem facing us in meeting British Columbia's power requirements is not merely one of having enough kilowatts or horsepower available as required by our industry. We are already aware that our potential from known existing damsites can do that.

The really important necessity in B.C.'s power needs is the assurance that power will be delivered to our homes, our farms and our industries at the lowest possible cost.

It is economically wasteful to have the publicly owned Power Commission and the privately owned B.C. Electric Company building thermal plants in this province when we have hydro resources which, properly handled, could provide the low-cost power to meet all our needs in the forseeable future.



The CCF has always advocated public ownership and development of our hydro resources. We recognized that publicly developed power can be produced at lower cost than privately developed power under similar circumstances. The preference for public development of our power resources is not a matter of ideology or politics. It is an urgent matter of economics.

To meet B.C.'s power requirements, not only as regards quantity of power, but also to ensure stability of supply and economy of price, the following procedures must be followed:

1. To help our industries and maintain an expanding economy the cheapest sources of power must be developed first, providing such development does not adversely affect our renewable natural resources. A CCF government would therefore proceed immediately agreement is reached with the Federal Government to the development of the Columbia River.
2. Because of lower financial and federal tax costs, only public development of our power resources can guarantee low cost power in the future.
3. The Columbia River must be developed to produce the maximum amount of power, consistent with the best engineering and scientific planning. It must not merely provide storage facilities for the United States.
4. There should be no sale of power to United States interests except on a reciprocal basis.
5. All power development in British Columbia must be under the direction of a Public Power Authority as an integrated overall hydro system. This will include the Peace River and Columbia River developments.
6. The CCF will transfer the BCE and other private companies to public ownership under the terms of the Power Act.

NATURAL GAS

To meet British Columbia's requirements in the natural gas field and to ensure stability of supply and economy of price, a CCF government would provide that:

1. All wholesaling and retailing of natural gas shall be brought under public ownership and will come under the jurisdiction of the B.C. Power Commission.
2. Any privately-owned gas distribution system shall be acquired by the B.C. Power Commission.
3. Any new gas transmission system within the province shall be constructed and operated by the B.C. Power Commission.

EDUCATION POLICY

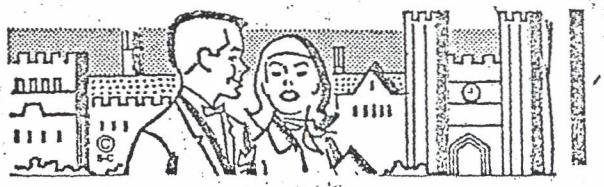
The CCF asserts that free education is a primary responsibility of government. A modern democracy must provide for the fullest possible developments of the talents and skills of every child and every adult.

While recognizing the need of scientific training, we must not forget the importance of the ideas and values that are developed through a broad liberal education. The modern school must aim to produce a mature man and a responsible citizen.

The CCF believes that only through a more purposeful and intensive program of education can we expect to reach the necessary levels of maturity.

A CCF government will be guided by the following objectives in education:

1. To make available, as far as possible, improved basic facilities and services of equal standard throughout British Columbia; to give to every child the most creative development suitable to his individual needs and abilities; and to encourage an enriched program for advanced students within the public school, by establishing smaller classes and a lower ratio of pupils to teachers.
2. To support teachers in their efforts to raise the status and standards of their profession in the interests of public education.



3. To provide for and institute pre-school training as a recognized part of the public school system.
4. To pay the full cost of educating retarded and handicapped children.
5. To provide education for all Native Indian children within the public school system.
6. To support all branches of adult education through night school classes, correspondence courses, university lectures, radio programs, and library services, and to make possible subsidized night school classes at nominal fees.
7. To introduce a more satisfactory method of financing the University of British Columbia and other institutions of higher learning in the province (including technical and vocational schools) with the immediate objective of reducing fees, expanding facilities and improving salaries. The ultimate objective is free university education, with removal of all economic disabilities by payment of allowances to all who qualify.
8. To urge the Federal Government to contribute substantial shares to the province for the support of education at all levels, without relinquishing provincial control.
9. To provide funds to establish a broadly based permanent committee independent of the Government of British Columbia to conduct research and to advise the government on educational

policies and curriculum.

10. To establish Junior Colleges in centres of population throughout the province to present:
    (a) A basic first and second year university program, the University of British Columbia to have surveillance over appointments and standards.
    (b) Such vocational and technical courses as may be useful to the region served.
11. To set up a commission to carry out an immediate survey of the problem of educational finance, which will include in its terms of reference:
    (a) Progressive reduction of school taxes on land and improvements.
    (b) Establishment of a firm formula for the division of provincial and local contributions to financing education.
    (c) Preservation of the autonomy and responsibility of school boards.
    (d) Sounder basis for negotiating teachers' salaries through collective bargaining.
12. School texts to be published by the Council of Public Instruction wherever feasible.
13. The provincial government to assume a greater share of educational costs and a share of yearly increases in teachers' salaries and other school expenses.

AGRICULTURE

CCF agricultural policy is designed to provide an ample supply of good quality l at reasonable prices. Since this ideal can only be achieved if there is some eco- ic stability within the agricultural industry, a CCF government will co-operate closely BCFA, Farmers' Institutes, and other farm organizations in an attempt to protect farmer against insecurity, fluctuations in income, and low returns.

e realize the limitations of rincial Government. Opti- roduction can only be de- ined in relation to national s and international poli- Our provincial policy must leveloped in line with na- l marketing legislation and national policies in respect istribution.

developing its agricultural ram, the CCF has consulted organized farmer groups is always ready to extend discussions either on a al or on an informal basis.

CCF government in B.C. d take the following steps itiate the development of und agricultural policy:

rogressively remove school xes from land and im- rovements.

llocate more of our provin- al expenditures to the de- elopment of agriculture.

et up and maintain a $5,000,- 0 Farm Stabilization Fund be used as required to economic farm units of marginal farms, and assist farmers to withdraw om sub-marginal farms and ıter industry as it can ab- rb them. Such a fund would so help develop and main- in the family farm as an conomic unit.

Assist young farmers to be- come established on the land through long-term, low-interest loans with postponement of the pay- ment of principal and in- terest for the first three years.

xtend agricultural research ıd farm advisory agencies.

xtend financial aid to pro- de agriculturists and veter- arians in all our farming eas.

vestigate the possibility of oviding farm machinery ols to reduce the capital penditure required by in-

dividual farmers.

7. Revise the B.C. Lands Act to facilitate the acquisition of farm lands by approved applicants.

8. Organize a department of co-operatives which would assist in the development of co-operative endeavour.

9. Appoint a committee to enquire into the question of land utilization - development and classification, to advise the Government as to what steps may be advisable to keep our best agricultural land for production purposes only.

10. Set up a new branch in the department of agriculture—a conservation and development branch, charged with the responsibility of assisting and advising agricultural areas on the use and development of range lands, pastures, feed and fodder reserves and planned distribution of feed. In co-operation with the Federal Government, a CCF Government will set up an overall authority on drainage and irrigation problems also dyking, river and creek erosion and review present dyking charges. To that end the CCF will endeavour to have the P.F.R.A. extended to cover the whole of B.C. on a permanent basis.

11. To ensure an equitable and stable income to the producer requires not only control of costs, but also control of prices received for farm products.

A CCF Government will confer with producers of particular farm products with a view to helping establish producer marketing agencies whose responsibility would be the distribution of farm products. To assist through legislation and otherwise the taking over of the wholesaling of domestic and imported produce to insure distribution at reasonable prices, and to stop the dumping of foreign produce on the B.C. markets.

To prevent food surplusses from upsetting orderly marketing, a CCF provincial government will, in co-operation with the Federal Government, give leadership to farmer organizations for planned production and for the organized utilization of periodic food surplusses.

LABOR

Trade Unions in British Columbia have developed as a potent economic force and an active vehicle of social change.

The new industrial revolution, "automation," requires a strong free trade union movement to protect the rights and maintain the standards of living of all people of the province.

In an expanding economy and in times of social and technological change, trade unions must continue to be one of the great instruments of reform and progress in our society.

To assist and protect every worker in the province a CCF Government would:

1. Repeal Bill 43 and institute a fair Trade Union Act.

2. Establish a more effective staff of Industrial Relations Conciliation Officers trained in the art of conciliation and mediation.

3. Legislate to:
   (a) Promote and encourage free collective bargaining in all fields of endeavour.
   (b) Provide for resolving of industrial disputes as expeditiously as possible without the use of compulsory arbitration or other such measures unacceptable to organized labor.

4. Amend the Hours of Work Act, to provide by law, a 40-hour work week.

5. Amend the Minimum Wage Regulations to provide wage rates commensurate with the cost of living, and with the qualifications and responsibilities of the jobs under consideration, such rates subject to being revised at periodic intervals.

6. Provide for the payment of wages on all statutory holidays, for two weeks holiday with pay annually, and for three weeks holiday with pay annually after five years of service.

7. Enact a Fair Accommodation Practices Act, and arrange for the formation of an Anti-discrimination Commission to administer the Fair Accommodation Practices Act and the Fair Employment Practices Act and to promote the necessary related education program.

8. Repeal Bill 123, and grant to government employees, full rights and privileges under labor legislation on the same basis as it applies to employees of other employers, with special reference to the right to bargain collectively with the government.

9. Investigate the changes automation will make in job opportunities and frequency in British Columbia and provide for rehabilitation of displaced workers.

10. Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to:
   (a) Provide increased rates of compensation for widows and dependents.
   (b) Provide full coverage for all occupational diseases.
   (c) Increase pensions granted when rates were unduly low.
   (d) Provide for a proper and workable appeal on the part of the claimant from the findings of the Workmen's Compensation Board, such appeal tribunal to be completely free and independent of the Board.
   (e) Make all workers, including among others, fishermen, domestic servants, farm and ranch ranch laborers, now excluded from compensation benefits, eligible on the same basis as eligible industrial workers.

FOREST POLICY

The forests of British Columbia comprise our most important single resource and upon them is based an industry which sup-ports, directly or indirectly, almost 60 percent of our economy. Because of this, forest objectives must be set forth in a manner calculated to serve the best interests of the people.

Forest management must be designed to promote community stability and the social well-being of our citizens. It must make provision for range management, protection of our watersheds, establishment of recreational facilities and conservation of game and wild life. It must protect the public interest and distribute equitably the rewards from our forests.

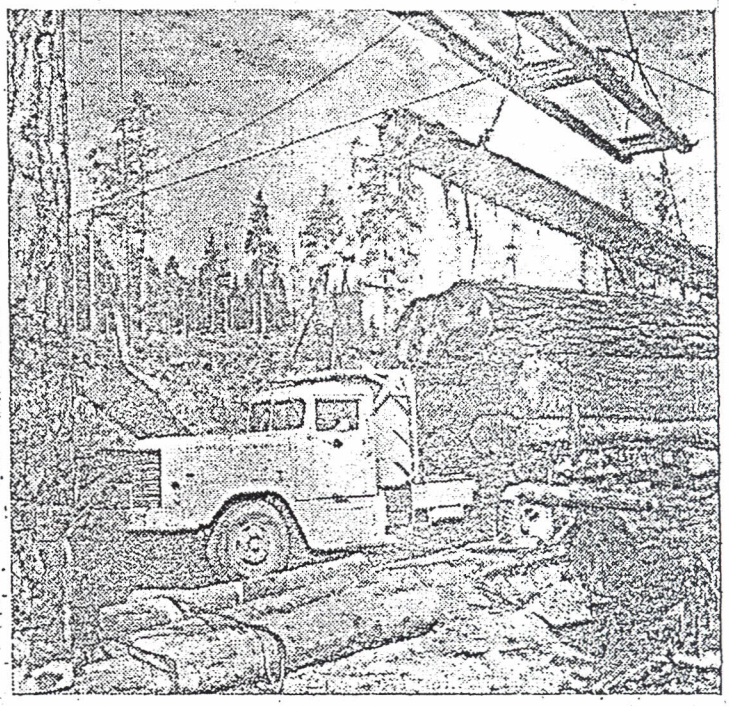
The major criticism of the present forest legislation and practice is that it encourages the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few with little or no provision for the controls needed to safeguard the public interest.

The allocation of large blocks of crown timber to a few private operators under the guise of sustained yield management is in reality only subjecting our province to monopoly control. Sustained yield management of our forests is the duty and responsibility of the Provincial Forest Service.

The rapidly changing characteristics of the forest industry and the definite prospects for greater innovations, more varied uses and complete utilization of forest resources make it imperative that we keep the raw materials, our forests, as free as possible from long term commitments which could place our development in an "economic straight-jacket" and retard future progress.

The CCF believes that the people themselves, through their democratically elected government, should have the final voice in determining the nature, direction and velocity of our economic development.

To ensure this democratic control a CCF government would:



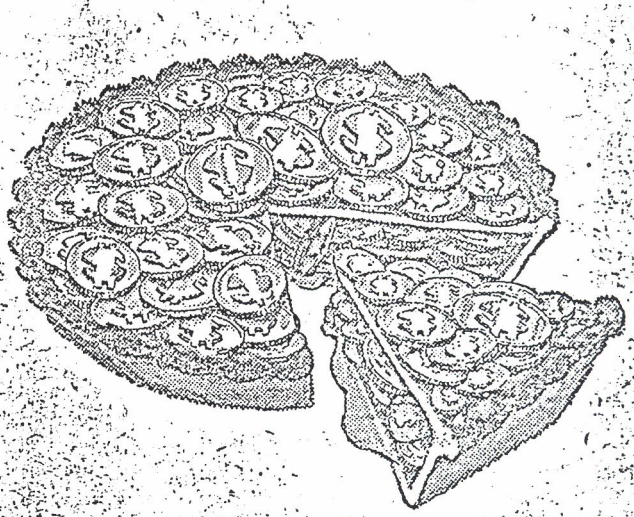
1. Divide the province into a number of Forest Management Areas in which administration and control would be by the Forest Service, with due consideration for the requirements of established industries in each area. In view of the complex nature of the logging and manufacturing industry and its dependence on foreign markets which are beyond the control of a provincial government, a CCF government would not anticipate directly entering the logging [illegible] any substantial manner, preferring to rely on the crown ownership of growing sites and on legislation to implement a sound forest policy.
2. Keep all crown timber in the right of the crown, both for ownership and for management.
3. Review the circumstances and terms of all Forest Management Licences or Tree Farm Licences issued to date and change the existing legislation which allows alienation of control of crown timber by such procedures and return to the crown as rapidly as possible all management rights which have been alienated in various forms.
4. So manage the Forest Lands as to facilitate a continuous supply of raw material to the industries dependent upon them, provided that such industries are designed for the fullest possible utilization and for making the maximum contribution to the economic stability of the province.
5. Restore to the small operators of the province equality of opportunity in the harvesting and use of the forest crop.
6. Promote continuous industrial expansion by having the Forest Service participate in research for and in the development of new processes and utilization of our forest resources.
7. Establish Regional Advisory Boards representative of the community to assist the Forest Service in economic development and community use of the forest areas.
8. Encourage municipal participation in management and development of forest resources.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Municipal organization and finance is an increasing problem and the difficulties now disturbing our municipal authorities will increase as our urban population grows unless basic changes are made in the relations between the various levels of government.

The present municipal tax and finance structure is outmoded and inadequate when we consider the social development that has taken place this last twenty years.

There has been an erosion of municipal autonomy and a decline of local government authority. Our local authorities are being subjected to the mechanical administration and the carrying out of orders issued from above. Despite this declining autonomy, provincial governments have forced upon the municipalities increasing financial responsibility.



The CCF believes that municipal democracy must be safeguarded as a practice demonstration in local self-government. The CCF believes that government at the municipal level is equally as important to our social well-being as government at any other level.

Municipal authorities are charged with making day-to-day decisions which are closest to our daily lives and therefore affect the members of the community as individuals.

As the responsibility for conducting the affairs of our nation is divided among national, provincial and municipal governments, the CCF asserts that there must be clearly-defined areas of jurisdiction and responsibility of these governments at each level.

This is important because, while there is only one group of taxpayers, governments, particularly the present provincial government of British Columbia, have been continually shifting the tax load from the provincial level to the municipal level in an attempt to sustain their fictional claims of debt reduction. The CCF takes the position that good administration is only possible when the conflict over jurisdiction and financial responsibilities is settled. Haggling and bargaining for advantage have no place in the democratic administration of our affairs.

It is now time for a complete revision of the fiscal arrangements between municipal and provincial governments. Such a revision will necessitate a revision of the objectives and responsibilities of the various levels of government. It is obvious that a fairer distribution of public money is required, not